

# The British Counter Attack in Picardy

about the town of Albert. Large enemy forces pushed forward toward the place, but at last accounts the British were holding them doggedly at this possible gateway to Amiens.

**Loss Estimated at 420,000**

The conflict in the sector around Roye and Noyon appears to be of great importance, from the many indications that the German higher command is attempting to split the Allied front there and start a rolling-up process either way.

From the average of casualties in the various German units, as given by prisoners, one arrives at the conclusion that the German Emperor has lost 50 per cent of these men since he gave the signal for the advance.

Fifty per cent of the German divisions actually known to have been engaged would amount to 420,000 men, figuring the German division at a minimum of 12,000.)

The faith of the men in their ability to cope with the hard-hitting Germans has never flagged from the start, and those troops which are coming back from the fierce battles of the last few days, in which they fought as they probably never had been called upon to fight before, are filled with confidence.

One reassuring sign is that the enemy is beginning to use his old troops in continuing the assault. German prisoners declare that never before had they seen such fighting as they experienced since last Thursday. They battled like demons, and like flies they are coming into the prison camps, hungry and sullen and declaring that they are sick of the whole business.

**Terrible Losses Inflicted**

The British army continues to exact a great toll of life from the enemy. Last night the entire area of the Somme battlefield, over which the German Emperor's troops have spread themselves, was subjected to a most terrible bombardment, which lasted until daylight. The gunning along the front for the last week has been appalling, and the zone is shrouded with a towering grayish haze from burning explosives.

There has been practically no change in the British line since yesterday. The most sensational rumors are continually coming back from the direction of Albert, most of them to the effect that the Germans were well on their way to Amiens. But the German troops sitting under the gunfire of the British artillerymen and machine gunners this morning.

During the night the enemy tried to advance on Compiègne, north of Albert, but was thrown back. Similar attempts against the neighboring village of Auchonvillers met a like fate. The enemy being a long way off, the Germans were in force in this sector, the Bavarians being included among the troops.

**Expect Foe to Strike Again**

Another attack was delivered at Abbeville, but was flung back. These marks the principal events along the British front. A renewal of the offensive is expected as soon as the Germans have had time to prepare themselves.

Touching scenes are witnessed among the civilian population in the areas affected by the German advance. For days these civilians have been coming back from their homes, following one another dumbly like sheep toward havens of safety. There has been no stampede and little confusion, for they have been brought out under the guidance of the British military authorities, and many of them would probably have stayed by their own fires in preference to daring adventures in the outside world, if the ever watchful eye of the British command had not forced them for their own good to move into the zone of safety.

Fresh enemy forces were flung into the southern phase of the offensive yesterday. These reinforcements, with other units including the famous Prussian Guards, were sent forward in a dense wave against the Allied defenses. The latest reports from this fighting zone more clearly indicate a most sanguinary struggle without indicating any change in the situation.

**British Line Elastic**

At the latest reports the Germans had made no further attacks against Bray. North of Albert, however, they attacked in considerable strength toward Axelwood. The assault broke against the British line and recoiled. North of this point the situation is unchanged. Heavy fighting occurred late yesterday just south of Albert, about Menulle. At the same time the British drove off an attack of the Germans at Auchonvillers. The enemy's gains further north have been large, but the elasticity of the defending line thus far has defeated his hopes of breaking through here and dividing the British forces. It is probable this elasticity has resulted in the development of the various units which the enemy is now making to the south.

The resistance which has been offered by the Allied troops to the German advance constitutes one of the most gallant sacrifices which these hardy warriors made in covering the withdrawal and delaying the German sweep forward undoubtedly the final outcome of this greatest of all battles.

The appalling slaughter of the attacking masses has continued since the first day of the battle, and the same story to tell of the great losses suffered. Undoubtedly the Germans expected some such result, and it is probable all their cards have not yet been played.

**British Stand Firm Along Entire Line, Hurling Back Attacks**

LONDON, March 27.—The British front is standing firm along the whole line, and the enemy has been hurled back at various points to-day, but from all reports these efforts made no progress.

British airmen report the whole of the enemy front areas to be black with troops.

The zone of open warfare is continuing to enlarge as the fighting forces under the enormous weight of the German numbers, says the correspondent in an earlier dispatch to-day.

Even at points where the line is not strong, the British are holding it, it is being held in very ordinary array, alike of men and guns, and nowhere is showing any signs of enforced retreat. The day after yesterday the enemy, however, attacked at various points to-day, but from all reports these efforts made no progress.

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**French Fired Into Masses of Foe Until Machine Guns Were Red Hot**

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, Tuesday, March 26 (evening).—The German effort by a terrific rush to get between the French and British forces, with the object of defeating each separately, has failed up to the present and is likely to continue to fail. The fighting qualities of the Allied soldiers have served to stay the impulsive advance, and to-day the Anglo-French line is on strong positions.

The next few days may change the situation entirely, as the Allies have had time to get their "maneuvering reserve" to take the initiative. Noyon was evacuated late last night in good order and the French took up a position nearby.

**Stories of Wonderful Heroism**

The correspondent passed to-day among troops who have borne a great share in the fighting of the last five days. Everywhere cheerfulness was to be found and perfect confidence in the future. Nowhere has the correspondent seen such splendid morale among troops after long, hard fighting, more especially when those troops had to fall back. Both officers and men, whether French or British, tell narratives of wonderful heroism on the part of individuals and units.

The guns of a battery of French 75's in the neighborhood of Chauny were surrounded for three days without food, but fought until the last round was fired. Then, taking advantage of confusion among the Germans in the course of the third night, they somehow made their way through their encircling foes and escaped, carrying their wounded comrades with them. This is merely one instance among many similar daring deeds.

**Great Battle Fought, Victory Won, Says Ludendorff, but Doubts Result**

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—"A great battle has been fought and victory has been won, but nobody can foresee what will result from it," said General Ludendorff, chief aid to Field Marshal von Hindenburg, in an interview with the correspondent at the front of the "Vossische Zeitung" of Berlin.

The general praised the British for their tenacious resistance, and continued:

"The British believed they could rely on the strength of machinery. The employment of tanks and great numbers of machine guns is typical of their methods of warfare."

The German infantry, the general adds, had only one night's normal rest during five or six days of battle.

"In a battle like this," he remarked, "the infantryman must risk his life

## "Victory" Plan of Germany Has Failed, Says Pollen

Brilliant Defence of British Upset Advance Schedule and Gained Two Days for Allied Generals to Select Place for Reserves to Intervene

**By Arthur Pollen**  
*The Noted Naval Strategist*  
(Telephone Cable Service)

LONDON, March 27.—What are the known facts? We have the German objectives categorically set out for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Monday morning the enemy was still far from achieving the programme set for Friday evening.

All observers say that the German losses are fabulous. It is far from extravagant that attacking troops should be decimated twice over when they come forward in dense masses against quick firing artillery, machine guns and modern rifles.

If the losses are anything like this at least half the divisions employed will be out of action for many weeks. They will simply have to be reconstructed.

The greater part, then, of the German strength is already extended. Next, this million men is used in a prodigious fashion for a break through to get open warfare in the shape of a great double turning movement, rolling the English army back on Calais and the French army on their capital to the south.

Had the English line opposite Cambrai been encircled this break through might easily have been achieved, but the line broken is the line of fixed defenses.

The German plan, then, has a great deal more than failed as to date; it has failed altogether, and the men sent to get through have been spent in vain.

**Most Successful Attack of War**

Now, on this 27th observation, occur to one. First, this is the most successful attack either side has yet made in the history of the war. It is a longer and more rapid succession than in any previous effort, by either side—not only more rapid, but more successful. The German advance has been a long and rapid succession, and the men sent to get through have been spent in vain.

**Defence Has Been Brilliant**

We have then the Germans succeeding in doing what no other army has done in organizing in such large scale such wide attacks in such large numbers, and imposing a task upon their opponents that no other army had to face.

Now, the satisfactory part of the weather especially cannot be reached. Our infantry had to take all those machine gun posts scattered everywhere over the battlefield.

"Our men advanced with great speed, so that it was difficult to follow them with their horses and damaged carts, but the spirit of our men was unbroken. The preparations for the battle meant two months of strenuous labor. In the beginning of February the order was given and on the night of March 20-21 the attack was begun, and the minute. Everything was ready. We see the result."

**Ludendorff and Kaiser Quarrelled Before Big Drive**

PARIS, March 27.—Emperor William and General von Ludendorff had a violent quarrel before the beginning of the great attack on the Western front, according to a prominent Swiss, who has just returned to Zurich after some weeks in Germany and has been interviewed by the correspondent of the "Telegraph."

The quarrel was not a personal one, but a quarrel of principle. Ludendorff was of the opinion that the attack should be made on the Western front, while the Kaiser was of the opinion that it should be made on the Eastern front.

**Stand by British on Somme Front Increases Confidence in London**

LONDON, March 27.—To-night's news from the battlefield confirms the hopeful impression formed early in the day that the British now appear to be on a line they are able to hold firmly, at least on the Somme and the Ancre rivers.

Further south, in the Roye-Noyon region, the situation is less well defined, but it is stated that both the French and British are bringing up reserves there. The correspondents also are showing greater confidence that the enemy will be held on this terrain.

The German official communication of to-night was significantly brief and reserved. It reports the crossing of the Ancre, but only refers to Tuesday's events, while the British War Office statement shows that the Germans had crossed that stream were thrown back to-day in counter attacks.

The news from the Somme front is distinctly encouraging, the British having recaptured Moriancourt and Chipilly and advanced to Provant.

**Enemy Pauses in North**

The infantry fighting along the major portion of the British front in the new battle zone showed a marked slowing down this morning, indicating that the first phase of the German offensive here has been finished. From the southern sector, however, came reports that the Germans were still pressing the attack with great fury against the unwavering defence.

The enemy has paused in the northern sector, probably to reorganize and bring forward much-needed artillery before beginning the second round against the stiffening opposition of the British.

Hard local battles were still in progress, but the first fury of the German onslaught had spent itself. Several attacks which the Germans essayed were smashed, and at Sailly-le-Sec, where the Germans last night gained a footing, the British this morning delivered a smashing counter attack, which pushed the invaders back.

**Spirit of Optimism Grows**

The spirit of optimism was higher along the front to-day.

"The situation last night was undoubtedly more hopeful than it has

## The Official Statements

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attacked with redoubled violence our positions east of Montdidier. Our troops with praiseworthy tenacity checked the assaults of the enemy, who succeeded in advancing only by reason of a marked superiority in numbers.

In the regions of Lassigny and Noyon attacks not less powerful suffered a complete check, breaking down before the heroic resistance of our regiments.

**DAY.**—Last evening and during the night the Germans, weakened by their heavy losses, were compelled to retard their efforts. The valiance of the French troops, defending the ground foot by foot, is beyond all praise.

The French are holding a line running through l'Echelle, St. Aurin and Beauvais, north of Lassigny, in front of the southern part of Noyon and along the left bank of the Oise. During the night the French repulsed strong reconnoitring parties which attempted to approach their positions northwest of Noyon.

On the remainder of the front there was an intermittent bombardment.

**Progressing Slowly on Somme, Berlin Asserts**

BERLIN, March 27.—The German War Office official statements follow:

**NIGHT.**—On both banks of the Somme our armies are engaged in a slowly progressing attack.

**DAY.**—The British began a retreat this morning on a wide front on both sides of the Somme. The stubborn resistance of the hostile rear guard was overcome in the sharp pursuit.

British and French divisions which were defeated on March 25 tried again yesterday in the pathless crater fields of the Somme battle area to arrest our advance. Our attack broke through the enemy's lines.

To the north and south of Albert we won a passage across the Ancre. Albert fell in the evening.

To the south of the Somme after violent fighting we drove back the enemy by way of Chaubais and Lihons. Roye was taken by storm, and Noyon was cleared of the enemy after bloody street fighting.

At many points we have crossed our old positions, held before the Somme battle of 1916, toward the west. The number of prisoners grows and the booty increases.

There were artillery battles in Flanders, before Verdun and in Lorraine.

Captain Baron von Richthofen has achieved his sixty-ninth and seventieth aerial victories.

**TUESDAY, DAY (DELAYED).**—French divisions, brought up from Noyon, were defeated at Frenelles and Bathancourt. Busy was captured, and we are standing on the heights to the north of Noyon.

Our dispatch service has taken a prominent share in the successes we have achieved. Laboring untrigingly, they have rendered possible cooperation between units fighting next to one another and gave the leaders assurance of being able to guide the battle into the desired channels. Railway troops, which carried out a tremendous advance from the beginning of the fighting without any friction and which are now coping with the traffic behind the front, are working ceaselessly on the reconstruction of destroyed railways.

Since the beginning of the battle ninety-three enemy airplanes and six captive balloons have been brought down. Cavalry Captain Baron von Richthofen has achieved his sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth aerial victories; Lieutenant Bongartz, his thirty-second; First Lieutenant Loerzer, his twenty-fourth; Corporal Baumer, his twenty-third; Lieutenant Kroll, his twenty-second, and Lieutenant Thuy his twentieth.

The booty in guns has increased to 963, and over one hundred tanks are lying in the captured positions.

On the rest of the Western front artillery battles continue, increasing on the Lorraine front to great strength.

**VIENNA, March 27.**—The Austro-Hungarian War Office to-day gave out the following statement:

In France our allies have achieved further great successes.

able, according to a correspondent of "The Daily Mail."

"They have led and rallied their men with energy and tact," he writes. "We have been told sometimes by people who pretend to understand the German army that in these very qualities non-commissioned officers would be found lacking."

Another cause of the progress of the Germans has been the rapidity with which they have brought up their guns. Furthermore, the German superiority in numbers made it possible for the German command to concentrate its forces in the most critical days of assault. But there was no rest for our own men and each night I have seen some of them who were so tired when relieved that they had dropped down and slept where they fell."

**Nothing to Report on Our Troops, Says Gen. Pershing**

WASHINGTON, March 27.—General Pershing cabled the War Department early to-day he had "nothing to report," so far as the American troops were concerned, in the progress of the battle on the Western front.

While no official report has reached the War Department showing the participation of American forces beyond a few engineer units, there was reason to believe that some part of General Pershing's army might take part in the attempt to hurl the Germans back. The only report reaching the War Department to-day was a brief summary sent in by General Pershing showing the British battle lines as they stood early yesterday morning. The German claim that 963 guns had been taken also was quoted.

**Long Trains Carry Wounded to Germany**

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—Enormously long ambulance trains are passing through Liege and Namur, Belgium, on their way to Aix-la-Chapelle and other parts of Germany with wounded men.

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### Gen. Haig Pledges War Till Freedom Is Safe

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Field Marshal Haig's reply to President Wilson's cablegram was received to-day at the White House. It read:

"Your message of generous appreciation of the steadfastness and valor of our soldiers in the great battle now raging has greatly touched us all. Please accept our heartfelt thanks. One and all believe in the justice of our cause and are determined to fight on without counting the cost until the freedom of mankind is safe."

### British Use Cavalry And Win Big Victory

OTTAWA, March 27.—British cavalry has been in action against the Germans and has won a great victory, says a dispatch from the British War Office to-day.

"Although the enemy is continuing to fight hard along practically the whole front," the dispatch added, "the trend of the struggle is setting steadily southward and consequently the French are hearing a growing share."

Throughout the Somme area, yesterday, the British cavalry, says the dispatch, have been moved forward by the enemy, while his armor is so ruthlessly disposed to join in combat."

Reports current here that the inhabitants of Compiègne, between Paris and the battlefield, were being removed are denied by the "Petit Journal." A large number of persons, it says, are leaving the town voluntarily to avoid violent bombardments by enemy airplanes, but no order to evacuate has been given.

### "Daily Mail" Places Teuton Loss at 300,000

LONDON, March 28.—The German casualties since the beginning of the offensive are estimated at the front at 300,000, according to "The Daily Mail's" correspondent.

### Germans Use in West All East Front Guns

LONDON, March 27.—Reuter's Petrograd correspondent, telegraphing from Moscow, reports that the Grand Council of German generals at Dvinsk, presided over by Field Marshal von Hindenburg, decided that while operations in the Ukraine should be continued they should be reduced to a minimum in order to throw all the artillery now in use on the Eastern front against the French-British front.

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